

Wisconsin Forestry Notes

August 2006

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Emergency Burning Restrictions Lifted

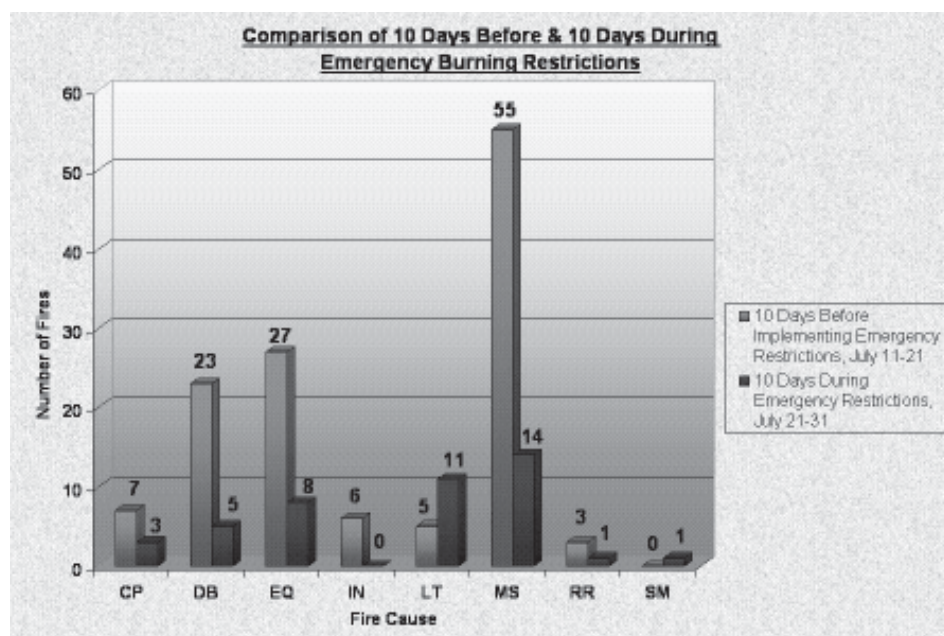
Although the fire danger has lessened with recent rains, DNR fire officials urge continued caution as conditions can change drastically.

Recent rainfall has reduced wildfire danger levels in northwestern Wisconsin allowing fire control officials to lift emergency outdoor burning restrictions effective August 1. Lifting the restrictions means that residents and visitors may now build campfires in areas other than developed camping areas, smoke outside of vehicles or buildings and resume outdoor burning provided the proper burning permits are obtained.

The ten days prior to implementing the restrictions, DNR reported 126 fires requiring suppression activity, most of them caused by fireworks and sparks or hot exhaust by equipment. Since implementing the emergency burning restrictions on July 21, 2006, DNR fire control reported only 45 wildland fires, most of them caused by lightning (see chart below).

Fire weather - and thus fire conditions - change very drastically in Wisconsin. Forests, grasslands and marshes are predicted to remain moderately dry across wide areas of Wisconsin for the upcoming months. Although burning permits are being issued for burn piles and burn barrels again, fire officials always ask residents and visitors to consider alternatives to burning. If burning is the only option, it is best to check with your local fire agency before any outdoor burning takes place.

Fire danger conditions and more information on Wisconsin's wildland fire program are available at <http://dnr.wi.gov> (navigate to the Forestry and Fire page).



Fire causes: CP=Camping, EQ=Equipment, DB=Debris Burning, IN=Incendiary, LT=Lightning, MS=Misc (fireworks, children playing with matches, powerlines, etc), RR=Railroad, SM=Smoking

BMP Monitoring Workshop Held in Eagle River

Water quality monitoring is set to begin this fall on federal and industrial lands. You are invited to participate in a monitoring exercise if you'd like to learn more about Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality.

On July 19-20, over 40 volunteers participated in a workshop to prepare them for monitoring Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality (BMPs) this fall. Federal and large block and/or industrial timber sales will be monitored in 2006. Volunteers included staff from federal, state and county agencies, as well as staff from nongovernmental organizations and the timber industry. The training was held in Eagle River to allow the teams to visit sites on the Nicolet portion of the National Forest. A federal timber sale along Lily Pad Creek was audited as part of the workshop. The first team will begin monitoring the week of August 28 and the last team will be monitoring the week of October 23.

If you are interested in learning more about BMP monitoring, there will also be a BMP Monitoring Exercise this fall that will be co-hosted by the Forest Service. This exercise is designed to evaluate a regional protocol for BMP monitoring that the Forest Service is promoting in the Northeast Area. If you are interested in participating in this exercise, please contact [Carmen Wagner](#) or [Kristin Shy](#).

Generally Accepted Forestry Practices Hearings Set

You are invited to comment on the proposed definition of "generally accepted forestry management practices" at hearings later this month.

Public hearings regarding the proposed definition of "generally accepted forestry management practices" have been set for the end of this month. The Department was charged with defining this term as part of 2005 Wisconsin Act 79 which states that a community may not declare a forestry operation a nuisance if it is following generally accepted forestry management practices. The legislation also allowed the Department to incorporate by reference the Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines (FMG). The proposed rule references the FMG and requires the Department to update the FMG a minimum of every five years. The rule proposal also requires the update process to include opportunities for public participation.

The hearings are scheduled for:

- August 29 at 4:00 pm in Rhinelander
- August 30 at 4:00 pm in Eau Claire
- August 31 at 1:00 pm in Fitchburg

The format of the public hearings will include a short informal presentation about the proposed rule, an opportunity for clarifying questions, and then formal public testimony. Comments will be accepted until September 15, 2006. Visit the DNR Website to [read a fact sheet about the proposed rule](#). If you have any questions, please contact Carmen Wagner, Forest Hydrologist at 608-266-1667 or carmen.wagner@dnr.state.wi.us

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